



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus
September 2, 2009, 3 p.m.

Rhode Island: 203 confirmed positive cases, 75 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths
National Report: 52 states (including DC, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 8,843 hospitalized cases, 556 deaths

Dr. Sanjay Gupta offers advice to parents on H1N1

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta has created a parents' guide to H1N1, which contains key points for parents of young children about what they should do if their children develop flu-like symptoms. Dr. Gupta emphasizes that parents should call their pediatricians' offices before bringing their children in. He also reminds parents that most children will experience mild illness and recover at home within a few days. Finally, he lists warning signs in children that warrant emergency medical attention. HEALTH endorses these recommendations for parents of young children. Parents who wish to read Dr. Gupta's messages to parents in their entirety should see <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/01/parents.h1n1.flu.guide.gupta/index.html?iref=newssearch>.

Letter to parents of school-aged children

The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will be distributing a letter to parents about seasonal flu and H1N1. The letter includes information about how schools are preparing for the flu and what parents can do to help prevent the spread of flu in schools this fall. The letter also includes information about vaccinating school-aged children against seasonal flu and H1N1. School-aged children should receive their seasonal flu vaccines now. H1N1 vaccinations for school-aged children will begin in October and occur through vaccination clinics at the schools. HEALTH will provide more information to partners about vaccinating school-aged children against H1N1 as it becomes available.

Flu campaign begins next week

HEALTH will kick off its seasonal and H1N1 flu campaign with a press event next Thursday morning, September 10 at the State House. Vaccinations for seasonal flu will begin first this fall, followed by vaccinations for H1N1 starting this October. HEALTH will provide more information about its flu campaign to partners as it becomes available.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>